

## **Fact Sheet: Take Pride in America<sup>®</sup>: Driving Resources and Opportunities to Volunteers from Coast to Coast**

*Take Pride in America is using its annual national awards conference to announce several exciting new initiatives.*

### **Take Pride is pleased to announce the availability of the new America the Beautiful Volunteer Pass. The Volunteer Pass will:**

- Serve as a reward for those who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer service on federal public lands, and as an incentive for a new generation of stewards.
- Provide the awardee with up to twelve months free admission to participating federal public lands, including our national parks.

### **As a pioneer in the field of volunteer vacations, Take Pride launched a new VolunTourism portal on [www.TakePride.gov](http://www.TakePride.gov).**

- Individuals and groups can now find volunteer vacations, including family-friendly options, through the VolunTourism page at [www.TakePride.gov](http://www.TakePride.gov).
- Take Pride in America volunteers can apply for VolunTourism grants provided by Travelocity's Change Ambassador Grant program, which provides at least two grants of up to \$5,000 each, every quarter, for the most compelling and meaningful volunteer vacation proposals.
- Change agents can learn about the Toyota-sponsored "VolunTour Across America" and contact Take Pride staff to become an event partner on the next leg of this service/media blitz.

### **Take Pride Schools Program now offers teachers a Take Pride School Kit to enhance service-learning nationwide.**

- The Toyota-sponsored school kit provides teachers with the necessary resources, such as work gloves, seeds, and garbage bags, to engage students in hands-on service-learning.
- Take Pride Schools Program is open to all K-12 schools, and offers additional resources to teachers and students such as posters, pencil packs, and other youth stewardship incentives.

### **The 2008 Take Pride in America National Award winners are a diverse selection of individuals, groups, and corporations that have all made a significant impact on our nation's lands. Below you will find a brief synopsis of each winner's accomplishments.**

- Outstanding Individual Volunteer: John V. Webb
  - Jack is a "jack of all trades" and has used his talents as a carpenter, plumber, fundraiser, mechanic, landscaper, electrician and artist volunteering 1,027 hours at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Center over an eight month period in 2007.

- Outstanding Faith Based Group: The Young Men of Yuma, Arizona Stake Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
  - The Young Men of Yuma, members of Boy Scouts of America fulfilled their oath to “leave it better than they found it” and cleaned up a significant portion of the Lower Colorado River
- Outstanding Public / Private Partnership: “The Trash Dogs”
  - Since June 2007 National Forest roads and county roads accessing National Forests in Curry County, Oregon have been protected from illegally dumped trash by the all-volunteer group “The Trash Dogs.” The group has worked not only at collecting trash dumped on roads along the National Forests, but has also applied a variety of methods to prevent illegal dumping.
- Outstanding Public / Private Partnership: Sabre Holdings Travelocity Division, and the City of Grapevine, Texas Parks and Recreation Department
  - Sabre Holdings and the City of grapevine have banded together to restore Meadowmere Point after a devastating eight week flood in the late spring of 2007.
- Outstanding Federal Volunteer Program: Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts
  - Wolf trap in Virginia utilizes volunteers to an amazing extent at their park during the summer months in which they conduct plays. 1,188 volunteers have given an estimated 39,105 hours of their time at the parks. Volunteers helped with maintenance, visitor service, resource management and administrative assistance, helping every division of the park.
- Outstanding Corporation: The Charles C. Hart Seed Company
  - The Charles C. Hart Seed company, founded in 1892 is one of the oldest and most respected seed companies in America. In 2007 the Charles C. Hart Seed Company donated \$700,000 worth of flower, vegetables and herb seeds to help communities volunteer by planting Take Pride in America Gardens.
- Outstanding Schools Program: The Middle School Students of Holy Trinity Episcopal School
  - These middle school students have dedicated their time and efforts in educating themselves and their community about properly caring for their environment. The students transferred lessons they learned at Jesse Jones Texas State Park and applied it to their campus and homes by establishing gardens, bird and insect sanctuaries, a way station for Monarch Butterflies and removing invasive plants from the school's wetland area.

- Outstanding Non-Profit Organization: National Public Lands Day (NPLD)
  - NPLD began in 1994 with three federal agencies and 700 volunteers to improve public lands on one Saturday in September. Since then the annual NPLD has grown to the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands that America enjoys.
- Outstanding State Volunteer Program: Take Pride in America in Southern Nevada
  - Take Pride in America in Southern Nevada has formed an effective partnership between the Bureau of Land Management, The US Forest Service, The US Fish and Wildlife Service, The National Park Service and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to clean-up litter and protect Nevada from future pollution through a campaign called "Don't Trash Nevada."
- Outstanding Youth Volunteer: Will Schoenhals
  - Will Schoenhals of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma has proven that you are never too young to care about and serve your community. Will has volunteered at the Three Forks Nature Center, Sequoia State Park since he was ten. Five years later, Will, is now in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and has volunteered over 1,000 hours to the park since he began.
- Outstanding Federal Land Manager: Warren Sadlacek
  - Warren Sadlacek, a Natural Resource Specialist for the Bureau of Reclamation, manages the Cascade Field Office in Cascade, Idaho providing quality oversight, management and stewardship for the Reclamation lands, waters and activities at Lake Cascade for more than eighteen years.
- Outstanding Federal Land Manager: Charles Hoolbrook
  - Charles Hoolbrook, the Project Leader of Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge Complex located near Austwell, Texas has distinguished himself in activities that affect the local communities and integrate the Take Pride in America mission through outreach, education and conservation work in South Texas.
- Outstanding Federal Land Manager: Dorie Murphy
  - Dorie Murphy a park ranger at Bardwell Lake, Ennis, Texas is part of the Operations Division of the Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She has helped her division with their multifaceted mission of providing flood risk management, recreation, wildlife and natural resource management and water supply for the region.
- Outstanding Federal Land Manager: David V. Uberauga
  - Superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park, David V. Uberauga is a wonderful example of stewardship, responsibility and dedication to public lands. Welcoming volunteers and helping them set up is not enough for

David, he works beside them diligently lending a hand to any volunteer project taking place at the park.

- Outstanding Federal Land Manager: Lynda Roush
  - As the Field Office manager of the Arcata Field Office, Lynda Roush is responsible for the administration of natural resources, lands and mineral programs on approximately 200,000 acres of public land in northwestern California. Lynda's strong advocacy and leadership with numerous organizations has launched a yearly volunteer event as well as public awareness and involvement in local environmental issues.

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